

Message Text

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ORIGIN NODS-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 068705

NODIS

CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: XGDS 1, 3

TAGS: UR, US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY-DOBRYNIN MEETING MARCH 16

1. ON THE EVE OF DOBRYNIN'S DEPARTURE MARCH 17 FOR SEVERAL WEEKS OF CONSULTATIONS IN MOSCOW, I MET WITH HIM OVER LUNCH MARCH 16 AND THE FOLLOWING POINTS WERE DISCUSSED.

2. MIDDLE EAST: I TOLD DOBRYNIN THAT WE WOULD CALL FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN THE AREA TO STABILIZE THE SITUATION. I SAID WE HOPED THE LEBANESE WOULD BRING THE MATTER TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL, BUT THAT WE WOULD CONSIDER DOING SO IF THEY DID NOT. DOBRYNIN REPLIED THAT THE SOVIET POSITION WAS SIMPLY TO CALL FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT CONDITIONS. HE EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT THE LEBANESE WOULD AGREE TO A PEACEKEEPING FORCE ONLY IF IT HAD THE CONCURRENCE OF THE SYRIANS. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD KEEP US INFORMED OF ANY DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOVIET POSITION.

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3. SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR TEST SITE: I GAVE DOBRYNIN AN ORAL NOTE IN RESPONSE TO THE SOVIET MESSAGE ON THIS SUBJECT, AND GERRY SMITH AND I DISCUSSED THE MATTER FURTHER, MAKING THE POINTS THAT WE HAD NO INFORMATION ABOUT THE ADDITIONAL

SITES MENTIONED BY THE SOVIETS, THAT WE WOULD BE GLAD

TO HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THE SOVIET UNION WISHED TO MAKE AVAILABLE, THAT WE DID NOT THINK A SECURITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF THE SUBJECT WOULD BE USEFUL AT THIS TIME, AND WOULD HOPE THAT THE SOVIET UNION WOULD CONSULT WITH US BEFORE GOING TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

4. SALT: I STRESSED THE PRESIDENT'S DETERMINATION TO PRESS AHEAD, AND TOOK NOTE OF THE MOST RECENT SOVIET STEPS AT GENEVA. HE SAID THEY WERE TRYING TO CLEAR AWAY THE UNDERBRUSH. I TOLD DOBRYNIN WE WOULD SOON BE COMMUNICATING WITH THE SOVIET UNION ON THE BACKFIRE PROBLEM, AND STRESSED ITS IMPORTANCE.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION TREATY: IN RESPONSE TO THE RECENT SOVIET MESSAGE ON THIS SUBJECT, I EXPLAINED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE FEASIBLE FOR US TO PRESENT THIS TREATY TO THE SENATE FOR RATIFICATION BEFORE THE UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT, AS THE SOVIET UNION HAD REQUESTED.

6. ISRAELI NUCLEAR CAPABILITY: IN RESPONSE TO THE RECENT SOVIET MESSAGE ON THIS SUBJECT, I GAVE DOBRYNIN AN ORAL NOTE SAYING THAT WE ACCEPTED ISRAELI ASSURANCES THAT THEY HAD NOT PRODUCED NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

7. HORN: I TOLD DOBRYNIN WE WERE PLEASED THE SOMALIS HAD
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WITHDRAWN, AND THAT THE ETHIOPIAN FORCES AND THOSE FIGHTING WITH THEM HAD RESPECTED THE BORDER, BUT I EXPRESSED CONCERN AT RECENT REPORTS OF REPRISALS IN THE OGADEN. DOBRYNIN EXPRESSED THE PERSONAL VIEW THAT THIS MIGHT BE BECAUSE OF SIAD BARRE'S SUPPORT OF IRREGULAR FORCES LEFT BEHIND. I TOLD HIM WE WERE PLANNING TO GIVE SUPPORT TO THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER'S EFFORTS TO DEAL WITH HUMAN NEEDS IN THE AREA, AND HOPED THE SOVIETS WOULD COOPERATE. I ALSO REPORTED THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS SENDING MOOSE AS EMISSARY TO SIAD BARRE. DOBRYNIN IMPLIED THAT THE REDUCTION OR WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET FORCES FROM THE AREA WOULD BE LESS DIFFICULT IF THERE WERE NOT PUBLIC STATEMENTS TO MAKE IT SEEM THAT THIS WAS BEING DONE UNDER PRESSURE HE THOUGHT NEITHER THE SOVIETS NOR THE CUBANS WOULD BECOME INVOLVED IN ERITREA.

8. ORAL NOTES GIVEN DOBRYNIN, AND OTHER SUBJECTS DISCUSSED ARE BEING SENT AS SEPTELS. VANCE

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